Agriculture and Forestry Technical Work Group

Draft Policy Option: A7. Convert Agricultural Lands to Grassland or Forests

1. Policy Description:

    a. Lay description of proposed policy action: *Increase carbon sequestration in agricultural land by converting marginal land used for annual crops to permanent cover (grassland or forests).*

    b. Policy Design Parameters:

        i. Implementation level(s) beyond BAU: *Program goal of converting **X** acres of marginal agricultural land to grassland or forest.*

        ii. Timing of implementation: *Acres of land converted to grassland or forest from 2006-2020, including acres in 2010 and 2020 and any necessary ramp up period. Acres converted by 2050.*

        iii. Implementing parties:

        iv. Other

    c. Implementation Mechanism(s): Indicate which mechanisms are to be used, and describe the specific approach that is proposed

        i. Information and education

        ii. Technical assistance

        iii. Funding mechanisms and or incentives

        iv. Voluntary and or negotiated agreements

        v. Codes and standards

        vi. Market based mechanisms

        vii. Pilots and demos

        viii. Research and development

        ix. Reporting

        x. Registry

        xi. Other?

2. BAU Policies/Programs, if applicable:

    a. Description of policy/program #1

b. Etc.

3. Types(s) of GHG Benefit(s):
   a. CO2: *Loss of carbon to the atmosphere from tillage and fallow land is reduced by converting land to permanent cover. This increases soil carbon content. Above ground carbon stocks are increased by converting to cover with a greater ability to sequester carbon (i.e. higher biomass).*
   b. CH4: *Not applicable*
   c. N2O: *Not applicable*
   d. HFC's, SFC's: *Not applicable*
   e. Black Carbon: *Not applicable*

4. Types of Ancillary Benefits and or Costs, if applicable:
   a. *Restoration of native grassland habitat.*
   b. Etc.

5. Estimated GHG Savings and Costs Per MMTCO$_2$e:
   a. Summary Table of:
      i. GHG potential in 2012, 2020, 2050
      ii. Net Cost per MMTCO$_2$e in 2012, 2020, 2050
   b. Insert Excel Worksheet showing summary GHG reduction potential and net cost

6. Data Sources, Methods and Assumptions:
   a. Data Sources
   b. Quantification Methods
   c. Key Assumptions

7. Key Uncertainties if applicable:
   a. Benefits
   b. Costs

8. Description of Ancillary Benefits and Costs, if applicable:
    a. Description of issue #1
    b. Description issue #2
    c. Etc.

9. Description of Feasibility Issues, if applicable:
    a. Description of issue #1
    b. Description of issue #2
    c. Etc.

10. Status of Group Approval:
    a. Pending
    b. Completed

11. Level of Group Support:
    a. Unanimous Consent
    b. Supermajority
    c. Majority
    d. Minority

12. Barriers to consensus, if applicable (less than unanimous consent):
    a. Description of barrier #1
    b. Description of barrier #2
    c. Etc.